

Ankara's flagrant violations of OSCE standards and norms continues and the problems raised by the United States Delegation to the OSCE Review Meeting last November persist.

Expert witnesses at a recent Commission briefing underscored the continued, well-documented, and widespread use of torture by Turkish security forces and the failure of the Government of Turkey to take determined action to correct such gross violations of OSCE provisions and international humanitarian law. Even the much heralded reduction of periods for the detention of those accused of certain crimes has failed to deter the use of torture. The fact is that this change on paper is commonly circumvented by the authorities. As one U.S. official in Turkey observed in discussion with Commission staff, a person will be held in incommunicado detention for days, then the prisoner's name will be postdated for purposes of official police logs giving the appearance that the person has been held within the period provided for under the revised law. Turkish authorities also continue to persecute those who attempt to assist the victims of torture, as in the case of Dr. Tufan Köse.

Despite revisions in the anti-Terror Law, its provision continue to be broadly used against writers, journalists, publishers, politicians, musicians, and students. Increasingly, prosecutors have applied Article 312 of the Criminal Code, which forbids "incitement to racial or ethnic enmity." Government agents continue to harass human rights monitors. According to a recent report issued by the Committee to Protect Journalists, 78 journalists were in jail in Turkey at the beginning of 1997—more than in any other country in the world.

Many human rights abuses have been targeted at Kurds who publicly or politically assert their Kurdish identity. The Kurdish Cultural and Research Foundation offices in Istanbul were closed by police in June to prevent the teaching of Kurdish language classes. In addition, four former parliamentarians from the now banned Kurdish-based Democracy Party (DEP): Leyla Zana, Hatip Dicle, Orhan Dogan, and Selim Sadak, who have completed three years of their 15-year sentences, remain imprisoned at Ankara's Ulucanlar Prison. Among the actions cited in Leyla Zana's indictment was her appearance before the Helsinki Commission. The Lawyers Committee for Human Rights has expressed concern over the case of human rights lawyer Hasan Dogan, a member of the People's Democracy Party (HADEP), who, like many members of the party, has been subject to detention and prosecution.

The Government of Turkey has similarly pursued an aggressive campaign of harassment of non-governmental organizations, including the Human Rights Foundation of Turkey and the Human Rights Association. An Association forum on capital punishment was banned in early May as was a peace conference sponsored by international and Turkish NGOs. Human Rights Association branch offices in Diyarbakir, Malatya, Izmir, Konya, and Urga have been raided and closed.

As the Department's own report on human rights practices in Turkey recently concluded, Ankara "was unable to sustain improvements made in 1995 and, as a result, its record was uneven in 1996 and deteriorated in some respects." While Turkish civilian authorities remain publicly committed to the establishment of a rule of law state and respect for human rights, torture, excessive use of force, and other serious human rights abuses by the security forces continue. It is most unfortunate that Turkey's leaders, including President Demirel—who originally signed the 1975 Helsinki Final Act on behalf

of Turkey—have not been able to effectively address long-standing human rights concerns.

Madam Secretary, the privilege and prestige of hosting such an OSCE event should be reserved for participating States that have demonstrated their support for Helsinki principles and standards—particularly respect for human rights—in both word and in deed. Turkey should not be allowed to serve as host of such a meeting given that country's dismal human rights record.

While some may argue that allowing Turkey to host an OSCE summit meeting might provide political impetus for positive change, we are not convinced, particularly in light of the failure of the Turkish Government to improve the human rights situation in the eight months since it proposed to host the next OSCE summit. We note that several high-level conferences have been held in Turkey without any appreciable impact on that country's human rights policies or practices.

Promises of improved human rights alone should not suffice. Turkey's desire to host an OSCE summit must be matched by concrete steps to improve its dismal human rights record.

We appreciate your consideration of our views on this important matter and look forward to receiving your reply.

Sincerely,

CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH,
Co-Chairman.
ALFONSE D'AMATO,
Chairman.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, DC, 20520 August 13, 1997.
Hon. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH,
Co-Chairman, Commission on Security and Co-
operation in Europe, House of Representa-
tives.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: I am responding on behalf of the Secretary of State to your July 15 letter regarding your concerns about the possible selection of Turkey as the venue for the next summit meeting of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE).

The Department of State shares your concerns about Turkey's human rights record. All states participating in the OSCE are expected to adhere to the principles of the Helsinki Final Act and other OSCE commitments, including respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. The U.S. Government has consistently called attention to human rights problems in Turkey and has urged improvements. It does not in any way condone Turkey's, or any other OSCE state's, failure to implement OSCE commitments.

The OSCE, however, is also a means of addressing and correcting human rights shortcomings. As you note in your letter, the issue of Turkey's human rights violations was raised at the November OSCE Review Meeting, and will likely continue to be raised at such meetings until Turkey demonstrates that it has taken concrete measures to improve its record. Holding the summit in Turkey could provide an opportunity to influence Turkey to improve its human rights record.

As you note, the Turkish government has made some effort to address problem areas, through the relaxation of restrictions on freedom of expression and the recent promulgation of legal reforms which, if fully implemented, would begin to address the torture problem. These measures are only a first step in addressing the problems that exist, but we believe they reflect the commitment of the Turkish government to address its human rights problems. We have been particularly encouraged by the positive attitude

the new government, which came to power July 12, has demonstrated in dealing with human rights issues.

As you know, the fifty-four nations of the OSCE will discuss the question of a summit venue. As in all OSCE decisions, any decision will have to be arrived at through consensus, which will likely take some time to achieve. In the meantime, the Department of State welcomes our views, and will seriously consider your concerns about the OSCE summit site. I welcome your continuing input on this issue, and thank you for your thoughtful letter.

We appreciate your letter and hope this information is helpful. Please do not hesitate to contact us again if we can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

BARBARA LARKIN,
Assistant Secretary,
Legislative Affairs.

CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM

HON. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 29, 1997

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, another day has gone by and still no campaign finance reform. My colleagues who oppose changing the current campaign finance system continue to argue that we must conduct exhaustive hearings on the abuses of the system during the 1996 election before we pass a reform bill. I agree that we must investigate violations of the law, and those who break the rules need to be prosecuted and brought to justice.

That very thing is happening in Virginia right now. The State of Virginia is charging the Republican National Committee for failure to disclose campaign contributions in excess of \$600,000 to GOP candidates during this fall election in that State. The contributions are legal, but the failure to disclose those contributions are a clear violation of Virginia campaign law.

In the special congressional election in New York City the Republican Congressional Campaign Committee has announced it will be spending \$800,000 in independent expenditures on behalf of the Republican congressional candidate. This "soft money" is being used to influence the outcome of the special election, even though campaign finance rules specifically prohibit direct expenditures on behalf of a candidate.

Mr. Speaker, we must investigate violations of the law by both parties, in the 1996 and 1997 elections. However, we also need to change the current rules that allow millions of dollars to be legally spent to buy elections in this country. It is time to stop the excuses and allow a vote on campaign finance reform. I refuse to take "no" for an answer.

THE CHINESE HUMAN RIGHTS
RECORD AND THE VISIT TO THE
UNITED STATES OF CHINESE
PRESIDENT JIANG ZEMIN

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 30, 1997

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, this morning a number of us had a leadership breakfast with

the visiting President of China, Jiang Zemin. In that meeting a number of very serious human rights concerns were raised with our Chinese guest by the participating Senators and Members of Congress. Mr. Speaker, it is important that President Jiang Zemin understand the seriousness of the concern, the strength of the interest of the American people in human rights.

Mr. Speaker, earlier this week, on the eve of President Jiang's arrival in Washington, DC, the Subcommittee on International Operations and Human Rights of the House International Relations Committee held a hearing on China's record on human rights under the leadership of Subcommittee Chairman CHRIS SMITH of New Jersey. That was a most appropriate and most important hearing at which a number of excellent witnesses discussed in some detail the appalling abuse of human rights by the Government of China.

I ask, Mr. Speaker, that my opening statement at that hearing be placed in the RECORD. As the President of China visits us here on Capitol Hill, it is important that he understand clearly and unequivocally the point of view of the elected representatives of the American people.

STATEMENT OF CONGRESSMAN TOM LANTOS OF CALIFORNIA—"U.S.-CHINA RELATIONS AND HUMAN RIGHTS," OCTOBER 28, 1997

Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. First, I want to commend you for holding this hearing. I deeply regret that, apparently, this is the only hearing held on this general subject during the visit of the President of China, because I think it's extremely important that the public relations campaign so carefully constructed and so effectively executed by the paid propagandists of Beijing not be successful and that the true story about China be relayed.

Since I so strongly agree with most of the statements that you just made, Mr. Chairman, allow me to begin with a general observation that puts this visit in its proper perspective. I disagree with this administration's China policy. Having said that, however, let me state for the record that I'm convinced that the commitment to human rights of this administration is far stronger than was the commitment to human rights of the previous administration.

And while we can discuss *ad nauseam* and *ad infinitum* the human rights policies of the Clinton administration vis-a-vis many countries on the face of this planet, and while I share your concern, Mr. Chairman, with respect to the Clinton administration's human rights policy with respect to China, the record must show that the Clinton-Gore Administration has a far greater commitment to human rights than did Bush-Quayle; that Secretary Albright has a far greater commitment to human rights than did former Secretary Jim Baker; and that on balance, this administration is far more sympathetic to human rights concerns across the globe than was the previous administration.

Let me state at the outset that I look forward to listening to our witnesses as one who has unbounded admiration for China as a civilization and a culture. Chinese civilization and culture is obviously one of the great civilizations and cultures on the face of this planet. And nothing would please me more than the opportunity for that culture and that civilization to blossom in freedom and in growing friendship with the United States.

Let me also at the outset, Mr. Chairman, put to rest perhaps the most preposterous notion that many who oppose our position

claim with respect to U.S.-China policy. There is an attempt on the part of many—and many in the administration—to juxtapose a policy of engagement with a policy of isolation.

That is a phony juxtaposition. No one is more committed to engagement with China than I am, and I believe you are, Mr. Chairman. What we are calling for is an engagement which is consonant with fundamental America principles and values. No one in his right mind is advocating isolating 1.2 billion human beings. All of us recognize the enormous importance China will play in Asia and in the Pacific. All of us are hoping for a prosperous, peaceful and democratic China. So, I reject categorically the juxtaposition of engagement versus isolation, however, high the authority may be who is pursuing that line.

Our problem with China, of course, is many fold. Today, we are dealing with human rights. But let me, for the record, state that I am—as I am sure you too, Mr. Chairman—profoundly concerned with China's role in the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. I am profoundly concerned with the profoundly unfair trade relations between the United States and China—a trade imbalance which this year will exceed \$40 billion. I am profoundly concerned with the subtle undermining of political democracy in Hong Kong. I am profoundly concerned with the onslaught on the free and democratic Taiwan. And of course, I am profoundly concerned about outrageous performance of this Chinese regime in Tibet.

Cynical photo opportunities by the President of China—seeking out the most sacred places of American democracy in Philadelphia or Williamsburg or elsewhere—will not suffice to cover up the shameful human rights record of the Chinese government. The record is clear. In addition to the litany of items you mentioned, Mr. Chairman, we will be hearing from my friend Harry Wu concerning the sordid traffic in organs of executed prisoners—one of the shabbiest aspects of China's policy anywhere on the face of this planet.

I have no doubt in my mind that the almost pathological opposition of this regime, to his holiness the Dalai Lama stems from the inherent fear of a sick and valueless system when it is confronted with ultimate moral authority. There is no rational explanation as to why this vast and powerful country of 1.2 billion people with a vast military apparatus should be afraid of a simple Buddhist monk in saffron robes—without a military, without economic power, without anything except his moral authority—which he juxtaposes to the powerful regime in Beijing.

Human rights have, in fact, deteriorated in China in recent years. Our decoupling of most-favored-nation treatment (MFN) issues from human rights—as you, Mr. Chairman, and I and our good friend, Congressman Wolf so ably stated at the time—was a mistake when it occurred. And it is my, perhaps naive, hope that at least in the House of Representatives this next time around we will have sufficient votes with a new coalition emerging—covering the broad spectrum from human rights through the American labor movement to the religious groups—that we might in fact eke out a narrow majority for a victory for the moral position on that issue.

Let me just say in conclusion, Mr. Chairman, that long after the Jiang Zemin's of this world have been thrown on the dump heap of history, the heroes in China's prisons will continue to live in the minds of men and women across the globe who believe in human freedom and dignity, in religious freedom, in the right of people to select governments of their own choosing. This transi-

tory regime will not be here for long in its present form because the people of China are as entitled to live in a free and open and democratically elected society, as are the people of Taiwan today and as are the people of Hungary or the Czech Republic or Poland.

It was not too many years ago when those of us who expressed hope that the communist regimes will collapse in the Soviet Union and in the Soviet empire were labeled naive. Naivete is on the other side—mostly on the side of the leaders of the multinational giant corporations who, for the sake of a few contracts, are ready to swallow all of the principles taught to them in schools here in the United States.

And our great democratic allies are no better. In France, in the United Kingdom and elsewhere, the pursuit of contracts with China is no less vigorous and shameless as it is by multi-nationals headquartered in the United States. But naivete is not on our side. It is on the side of those who hope that making deals with the devil is a long-term proposition for national prosperity.

In the not-too-distant future, I look forward to welcoming to Washington some leaders of China who will view the American shrines of democracy not merely as photo opportunities, but as fountains where they can replenish their yearning for freedom.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.

A TRIBUTE TO OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH ON ITS 40TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. MICHAEL P. FORBES

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 30, 1997

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Our Savior Lutheran Church, of Centereach, Long Island, as its congregants come together this Saturday to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the founding of this blessed house of the Lord.

Since Our Savior Lutheran Church opened its doors in 1956, its congregants have sought to fulfill the mission that it so proudly declares: "Proclaiming Christ to the Heart of Long Island." I truly believe, as many of my colleagues in this hallowed Chamber do, that our churches, temples, and mosques are the cornerstones of our community, the bedrock on which our faith, values, and sense of purpose rest. For my neighbors in Centereach, a close-knit, family-oriented community in the center of Long Island, Our Savior Church and School has been the spiritual cornerstone that has nurtured and supported their faith and good work that makes this community so vital.

Under the leadership of Rev. Ronald Stelzer, Our Savior Church has flourished as a beacon of Christian faith and good work. Assuming the pastorate in 1984, Reverend Stelzer has helped Our Savior Church grow in size and numbers, to serve more of our Long Island neighbors. Since 1984, the number of parishioners has grown more than threefold, and Our Savior now welcomes an average of 500 congregants each Sunday.

Most impressive has been the creation and subsequent growth of Our Savior School. Founded in 1992 with just 9 students, today the School serves 200 students between kindergarten and the 12th grade. With a growth capacity up to 325 students, Our Savior School offers a superior academic curriculum, deeply rooted in Christian principles and teachings.